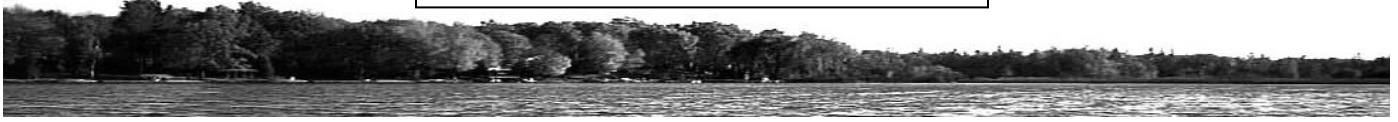


The Waterline

September 25, 2021

The Official Woodbeck Chain of Lakes
Association Newsletter

Volume 43, Issue 3



MEET YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

Wendi Davidson - President

Kevin Bird - Vice President

Bruce Veldman - Treasurer

Kris Ferguson - Secretary

We want to thank all of those who have served in the past and welcome all those who serve going forward! These are unpaid positions and they are critical to keeping our community safe; our lakes clean and accessible for all activities; and activities that help pull our whole community together.

Please consider giving your time to help the association by getting involved. Follow us on FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/Woodbeck-Chain-of-Lakes-Association-13330900037956/>

The President's Corner

Dear Lake Friends and Neighbors,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing my first letter as your new President. Thank you to all of you who encouraged me and supported my decision to begin this new adventure, and to those of you who have welcomed me to the Association Board. I am excited and humbled to serve our lake community in such a valuable and important way. I do not take the responsibility lightly and will value the opinions and expertise of each and every one of you. Many of you know me, many of you know a little about me, and many of you don't know me at all. So here is my story...



I am 59 years old and most days I feel like I'm 39, except when I do something that reminds me I'm 59. I became an RN at the young age of 20 and started my career in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) caring for the sickest, tiniest and most fragile infants. I earned my Bachelors degree at the University of Michigan...I know.... some of you have now lost all respect for me because I didn't go to MSU but just know, I love the Spartans! I loved the NICU so much I decided I wanted to advance my career even more so I moved to Washington D.C. and went to Georgetown University. I received my Masters degree and became a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. I now continue to care for sick and premature infants at Mercy Health Saint Mary's and feel privileged to do so. Additionally, I am an expert reviewer for medical malpractice cases involving neonates and I teach several classes including Neonatal Resuscitation to nurses and physicians. Being a Nurse Practitioner has not only been my career for the last 24 years, it's my passion and my purpose in life, and for that I am extremely grateful.

The President's Corner continued....

I live with my husband Norm and our three bulldogs Putter, Birdie and Eagle on the point between Thomas Lake and Half Mile Lake. Norm is a golf pro and businessman. He built and owned the Golf Emporium and now runs a business called Birdie Landscaping. We moved to this property in 2015 and neither of us can imagine ever living anywhere else. We love this community and these lakes. This is truly where we call home.

I love to occupy my free time with running the Flat River Trail, playing golf, or sitting back enjoying a pontoon boat ride with a glass of wine. My family is extremely important to me and so we spend a good deal of time with our kids and grandkids. I love to write poetry and we enjoy entertaining and sharing our wonderful property with friends and family. That's who I am, in a nutshell :)

Our lake association members have done many wonderful things to keep our lakes safe and clean, and to bring our community together through social functions. I believe we can build on what already exists and strengthen our community in areas we have not yet touched on. I trust as a community we can move forward in many ways that will be charitable, supportive, respectful and fun for everyone. I welcome everyone's participation! Stay tuned because I have lots of new ideas to bring to the table!

I will be posting a monthly President's Corner Update which will hopefully keep you apprised of what is going on, committees you can join, social events, concerns and updates on current matters. This will be in addition to the newsletter already established.

Let me end by saying our lakes and our community are incredibly special. We are privileged to live here and enjoy all it has to offer. With the help of everyone, it will be known as the place everybody wishes they lived! Until next time, be safe, take care and welcome in the cool fall weather!

Respectfully,

Wendi Davidson

Meet Kevin Bird - your new VP!

Carol and I moved to Banks Lake in 2004 from Holland Michigan after our children had all graduated high school. We were very familiar with these lakes prior to moving here as we had spent several years enjoying these lakes prior to our move. We have 3 children: Matt (Jamie), Jake, and Amanda (Grant) and 3 Grandchildren (Briana, Nolan, and Delaney) all living in the Muskegon area.

I have been a member of the Lake Association Board for most of the time we have lived here. We love these lakes and are always looking/finding ways to enjoy them to the fullest, summer and winter. I am looking forward to working with the Board this year. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you may have to improve our environment, just have fun, or both!



Kevin & Carol

Welcome back Bruce Veldman - Our Treasurer!

I worked for Kimberly-Clark Corporation (makes Huggies diapers and Kleenex facial tissue among other products) for 30 years in the financial area, retired at age 56. Before K-C I was CPA in Public Accounting. I received my Undergrad degree from Ferris State University and my Graduate degree from University of Wisconsin.

I've lived in a lot of places due to working with Kimberly-Clark (Wisconsin, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, the U.K. and Canada). We moved here in 2008 (Horseshoe Lake) after I retired from Kimberly-Clark Corporation.



Terri & Bruce

My Wife and I both grew up in Michigan and still have a lot of family here so we returned to Michigan after retiring. So we have lived here for close to 13 years of which 12 years I have been the Treasurer of the WCLA. My wife Terri and I have two grown kids (40ish) who both live near Atlanta GA. I enjoy fishing, hunting, and gardening. Terri is a runner, biker, kayaker, hiker, traveler, gardener, etc. ,etc.

Welcome back Kris Ferguson - Our Secretary!

I have been the WCLA Board Secretary going on 6 terms. I'm married to my high school sweetheart Jeff, and we live on the south end of Woodbeck Lake. We have been on the lakes since 2009, originally buying a cottage that was 3 miles from our house, then building our home in 2018. You may know our place by the double-decker pontoon or the dock with the slide or the carved Eagle at the top of the tree. We have 3 great kids, Brett, Kyle, and Haley that all graduated from Greenville High.



Kris & Jeff

Brett is married, and he and Elizabeth are parents to our 2 wonderful grandkids, Kyle is married to Tuyen, and Haley attends Western Michigan University. Jeff and I have close knit families, I'm the oldest of 5 siblings and Jeff is the youngest of 5 siblings. Both of our family's love coming to the lake and we enjoy entertaining, so summer gets busy. This community is so special. We've made great friends, have crashed bonfires, and we enjoy the WCLA and lake residences fun events. Being a part of the WCLA Board has helped me get to know people that I wouldn't have otherwise gotten to know, and see all the work that goes into keeping our lakes healthy, safe, and fun!

Thank you WCLA Officers - for all the work you do all year long, with no pay and little thanks! We appreciate you!!

WCLA Featured Family

Welcome Jessica and Paul Riste!

Quietly, during the fall/winter - just before COVID hit – Paul and Jessica Riste along with their kids Lilly (17) and Landon (14) moved into their new home on Horseshoe Lake. Jessica grew up in Holt, MI – but spent every summer on our lakes. Her Great Grandfather had built a cottage in 1928 from large wood logs he cut from trees growing on his property off of Half Mile Lake. This cottage later became the home her Grandparents lived in and a summer haven for Jessica and her family. They loved the area so much that in 1999, her parents – Tony and Penny Rodriguez - also purchased a cottage on Half Mile Lake!

Jessica decided to move up here shortly after high school. She met Paul over at Winter's Inn in 2008. Paul, a Greenville native - grew up on Bass Lake. The two of them knew they were meant to be together and three months later – they were inseparable. Jessica and Paul married in 2011 and lived in Greenville until they purchased their home on Horseshoe Lake in the winter of 2019. Unfortunately, when COVID hit – it made it difficult for them to meet their neighbors the following spring.

Paul and Jessica have had many adventures together and one of their biggest ones was buying the Coffee House that Jessica had worked at for years. It was a dream of hers and when it went up for sale – they jumped at the opportunity. Jessica was heartbroken when fire consumed the property back in 2019.

Jessica is now one of the managers at Flo's Pizzeria Ristorante in Greenville. Paul is a Regional Director for UPS. Lilly is now in high school and Landon in junior high. They love their new home and have found many of their neighbors friendly and helpful. They miss the Northern Lakes but with Jessica's Mom and Grandmother still here – they get to enjoy them often.



Jessica & Paul



Jessica, Grandma Rita,
Mom Penny, sister Jade
and friend



From right to left:
Jessica, Jade (sister),
Penny (mom) &
Jeremy (brother)

WEED CONTROL.....Did you know??

Living on Woodbeck Chain of Lakes these past 17 years – I've heard on many occasions – people ask why do we pay for weed control? This article attempts to answer that question and explains why we do it and how it actually helps maintain lake quality!

“Good resource management of aquatic plants requires knowledge of the condition of the lake and the land surrounding it.” - *Michigan State University Extension; Water Quality Series: WQ-55*

All Lakes age – they become more fertile with time. The rate of this depends totally on the ‘watershed’ surrounding the lake. This is the area that surrounds and feeds the lakes. In simplified terms: the more developed the land around the lake – the faster it will age. Excessive vegetation increases a lakes instability – as does excessive weed control.

Balance is the key. It is very important for those living on these lakes, to assess what state (or age) their lake is at and manage the quality through specific vegetation control. This is what your weed control assessment dollars are for. This is the *only way* to ensure all our lake residents can enjoy the activities that are important to their families: swimming, boating, fishing and other recreational activities.

WCLA contracted PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. (www.plmcorp.net) to manage our weed control many years ago – and since then the quality of our lakes has greatly improved. PLM is one of the largest aquatic herbicide and algaecide application companies in the United States. Their focus is on preserving and protecting desirable plant life while controlling unwanted weed species through remediation services.

Some fishermen believe that weed control hurts the fish in the lakes. This simply is not true. Aquatic herbicides are extensively tested for the effects on fish and other nontarget aquatic organisms.

By performing this assessment and treating properly and carefully – it prevents excess vegetation from decomposing and depleting oxygen levels in water – which can cause fish mortality or algae out breaks if these precautions are not taken.

It is also extremely important to make sure that effective control levels are used when applying herbicides. Professional Lake Management Companies are highly regulated and make sure that the rate herbicides are applied are well below those that would cause fish or wildlife toxicity. The herbicides selected for each lake are dependent on the specific target weed that is a problem – and ensuring that it is particularly sensitive to the herbicide used. Or because the herbicide interrupts a biochemical pathway that the aquatic animals do not possess.

Please understand – *no products are used that are not registered by the EPA and no aquatic herbicides currently registered by the EPA have fish consumption restrictions.* The fish you catch and eat are safe to consume!!

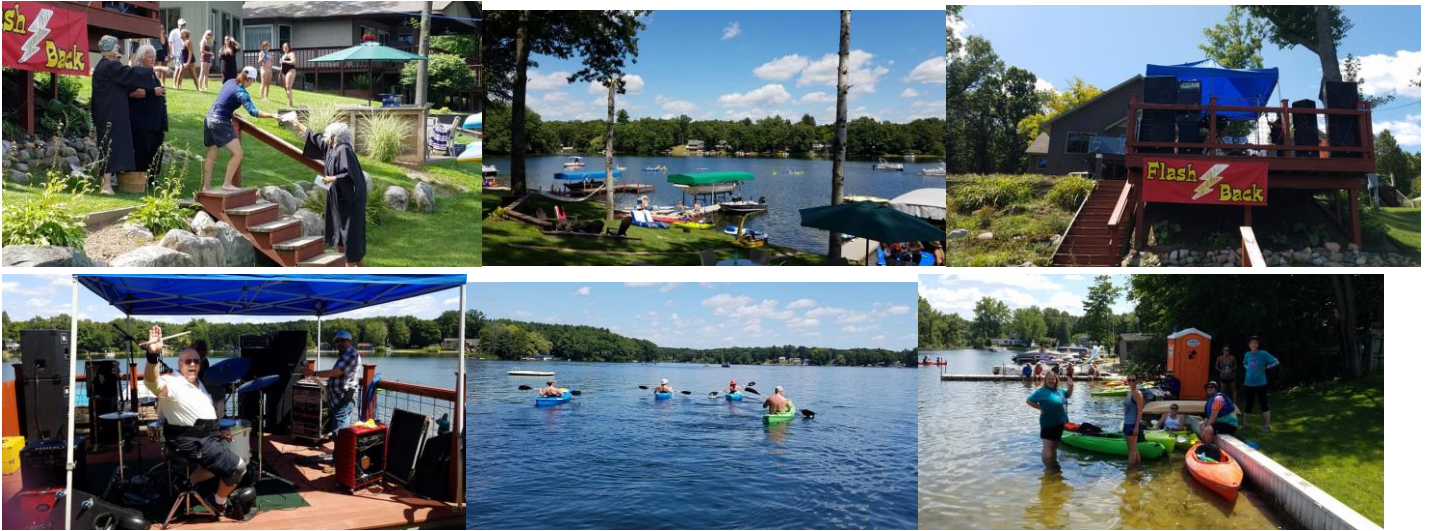
For more information on how weed control is necessary to maintain our lake quality, please see these publications:

1. Michigan State University Extension, [Water Quality Series: WQ-55](#); 2nd Edition
2. DEQ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality [Michigan Landowner's Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species Management](#).
3. MI Shoreland Stewards [Program Guide](#)
www.mishorelinepartnership.org

Written by Cathy Schrauben with help from Bob Darvill

SUMMER FUN ON THE LAKES!!

The 1st Annual Kayak Poker Paddle Run was a blast!! If you weren't there - you missed out on the best time ever!! Big Thanks to the Birds, the Armbrusters and Nan Holmes for setting it up and all the hard work!! Couldn't have been a better day.



WCLA Social at El Rancho Mexican Bar & Grill

After 18+ months of being cooped up and unable to have our social get-togethers - we finally made it back! Close to 30 of our lake friends attended and it was great seeing folks and catching up.



Summer Fun on the Lakes continued...

2021 Golf Outing



The Golf outing is an annual favorite and this year was no exception!! We had a play-off between WCLA and LOLA (Land of Lakes Association) on Saturday, July 31st - and while LOLA won - a great time was had by all. Huge thanks to Tom Stressman and Steven Powell who planned the event. And to Vicki Korson and her staff at "The Links at Bowen Lake"!!

Hats off to our WCLA Sponsors for making this event possible!!! 2021 Title Sponsors - Mike & Katherine Wolthuis - Wolthuis Group; Jeff Wilson - Fred's Auto Service; Tim Jones - Quality Collision Service; Mike Knapp - Arrow Swift Printing; Gloria Gibson; Scot Jankowiak; Tom & Christine Stressman; Kevin Martin - Martin Eye Care; and Ed Koehn Ford, Greenville - for their Hole in One Sponsorship!!

Many thanks to these Local Businesses that contributed gift prizes: Tinney Automotive Service, Fred's Auto Service, Winter Inn, Frugthaven Farm, Rynard's Pontoons, Flo's Pizzeria Ristorante and Sports Bar, Blake Hollenbeck Auto Sales, Hop Hog Backyard Brewpub, Lynn & Steve Monroe for the awesome t-shirts & Gloria Gibson for the donuts!

BEAVERS AND DAMS AND WHAT? OH NO!!

We have a Dam? Where is this structure? Why do we have a dam? And so what if we have Beavers? What's the big deal?

YES – we all got a letter from our Township mentioning a dam. Now if you're like me, you are probably wondering where this Dam is and WHY I haven't heard about it before.. and now – we might even have to repair it??? WELL the nosy person I am, I started asking a lot of questions. And once again, my friend Bob Darvill came to my rescue.

We took a ride over to Camp Concordia. We parked the car and took a hike. Yup – that's the only way to get to the dam unless you are a home owner back in the cove (as we Northern Lake people call the wetland area between the Camp and Half Mile Lake).

Bob told me all about the dam. It is located at *the only outflow* we have for our lakes. It rises up about 3-4 feet and the lake water has to be higher than the dam to flow out. This helps our lake water levels and also helps keep our water turning over – which is very necessary for the quality of our lakes to remain pure. Lakes that do not have an outflow – stagnate and age much more quickly than those with outflows.

Now come the beavers. They have been doing what beavers do best – cutting down trees and bush and floating the debris down the lake into the cove and low and behold – it's all getting stuck at the dam! When this happens – you got it – the water rises higher, there is less OR NO outflow (which remember – is necessary to keep the lake turning over and staying clean!) and someone has to clear it out. These great warriors on our lakes (Bob, Bruce Veldman, Don Hoogerhyde, Ron Trumble and Ed Armbruster) have gone over and repeatedly cleaned it out over the years. The decay of the walls retaining the banks on both sides of the dam are very noticeable this year and are in desperate need of repair. The next steps will be taken after the County Drain Commissioner does an inspection and determines what necessary repairs are needed. Stay tuned for further updates....

IF you haven't seen the Dam – here it is. Bob is standing on the bridge that crosses the banks.



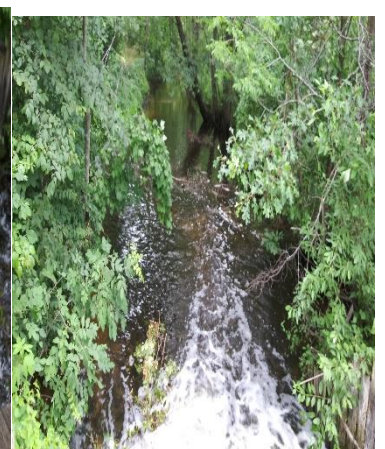
Bob on the bridge



Debris left behind



Water flow cleared



downstream flow

2021-2022 WCLA OFFICERS & LAKE REPRESENTATIVES

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